

Spreading religion's wealth between church and schools

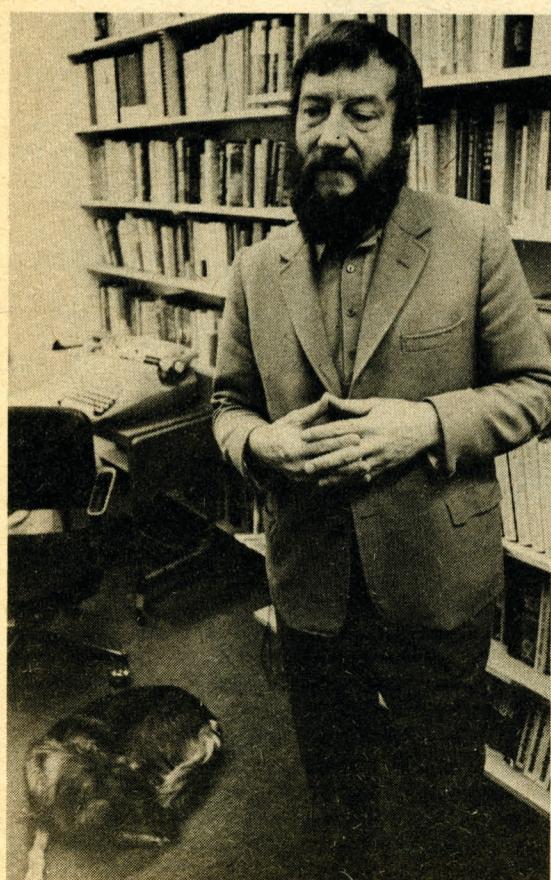
Following on the weary heels of many school board combattants' fights over whether or not the Lord's Prayer had a place in school, another religion issue is brewing. But it is not really religious.

The issue centers around the need - as some see it - to introduce the serious and scientific study of religion, especially as there is a drop-off among high school seniors from church affiliation and because many provinces have undertaken to at least examine the question. The secular study issue is a difficult one to earn acceptance for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the discipline's relative youth in North America.

Sir George religion department head and president of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (the group pressing the issue of religious studies) Charles Davis says that religion programs took root only in the post-war period in the U.S. and only in the early fifties in Canada.

So to push their case the society snapped off a letter to provincial ministers of education last year; but this didn't get a response beyond the usual acknowledgement that the letter had been received and the problem would be attended to.

"This is a two-fold concern," Davis began to explain. "First, in the processes of consultation (as education ministers re-examine religion instruction), attention should be paid to the fact that there is now a professional body of people in religious studies in the secular universities." Davis distinguished between the church-related colleges which tend to have a pastoral approach to church teaching and religion departments in secular universities devoted to the professional study of religion.



"We're not saying that every decision should be made by us," Davis said, "but people in the education departments should be aware of the fact that there is this body of people in the secular universities engaged in the secular teaching of religion."

Davis also hinted at the equally real concern of religion academics: "If we want to build up a flow of students in the subject, we're going to have to be concerned with how the subject is taught in the schools.

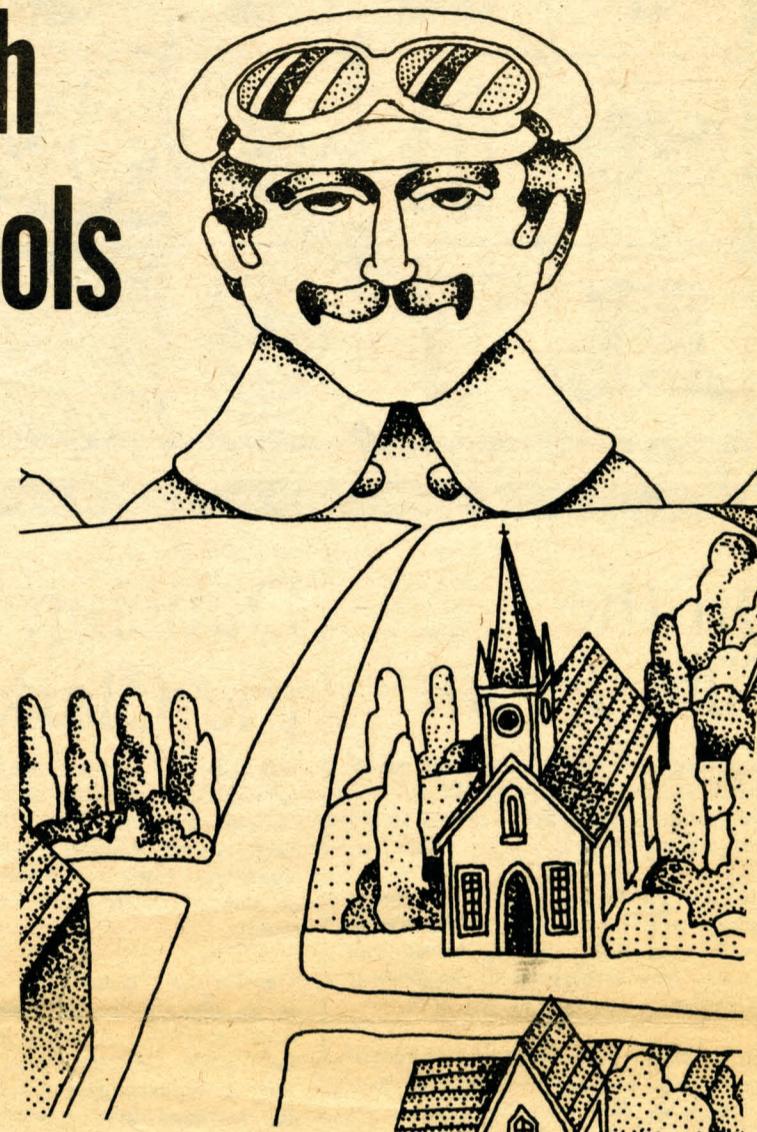
"The second point is how the subject is being taught," Davis said. "Not enough attention has been given to the need of proper qualifications for teaching the subject in the schools particularly in the non-denominational period that schools are in." Davis said that while it was accepted practice to have affiliated ministers teach denominational religion, it was another thing entirely to continue this way when schools were experimenting with courses on world religion, religious thought and other "academic" religion courses.

"Teachers should be adequately trained and it's felt that universities now offer the full and part-time courses which would enable teachers who want to move into this field to gain the proper qualifications," he said. "As it is now, a person who is interested in world religion feels he can pick up a couple of books on the subject and teach it. But this isn't good enough: it isn't a field for dabbling."

Speaking personally and not as the society's president, Davis said one of his real concerns was that because of the breakdown of traditional church affiliations, school children today could perhaps study more sympathetically other religious forms. "It enables them to take in, in a much more open and personal way, decisions that have been made in the field of religion," Davis said. "So when I distinguish between the pastoral formation of religion and religion as a school subject, I don't mean that it has to be done in a completely detached intellectual way - I'm not saying that it should have no more personal bite than mathematics."

Davis, who left the Roman Catholic priesthood, was asked if a more wide open study of religion questions might have changed things. "I can't say that this personally bothered me at the time. But looking back upon it, I certainly feel that the discussion of religious questions when I was studying theology would have been much enriched and made much more intelligible if they had widened the field of inquiry," he explained. "Since I left the priesthood and moved into the secular university I would now find it impossible to discuss a particular religious question just taking a narrow range of data from the tradition of one particular church. It's not that I would disagree necessarily with the answers given in a given church, but it's simply not a way to discuss a given question."

"Even questions that are closely bound up with the traditions of a particular church, say for instance the problem of papal authority, cannot be discussed without looking at other religious forms," Davis explained. "You would have to examine the forms of authority as manifested in different religions at different times and the way



religion gives rise to different forms of authority. This enables one to see whether the form is healthy or unhealthy."

The fall-off of adherents to traditional church teachings is one turn of events which Davis wants to make sure isn't confused with a fall-off of religious interest: "The unacceptability of religious instruction in the older sense should not lead to religion being omitted from the array of subjects taught to senior students," Davis said. And just as they are in other disciplines like History and English, standards should be set for religion teachers, he says.

With religion often being a tender issue with many people, would teaching at the school level make the subject so inoffensive as to make it worthless, Davis was asked. "When you say making the teaching 'inoffensive', I think I can say recognizing other views and very real conflicts is not in any way excluded from the teaching of religion," Davis explained. "In other words one recognizes firmly that there are different points of view and there's no reason why the teacher can't make it quite clear that he is of one conviction. But it does presuppose the possibility of entering sympathetically into the views of others."

"It's not a matter of rendering religious questions innocuous," Davis continued. "To take the case of political science professors, it's fair to say that they have political convictions; but it does mean that they are able to recognize in fact that there are varying political choices and to make a fair representation of the issues involved and the material and data on which the decision has to be formed."

Political Science, incidentally, gets us back to the original problem: it's now up to the politicians and bureaucrats to make up their minds one way or the other but they should act with dispatch, if we're going to have any traditional churches to study.

"As it is now, a person who is interested in world religion feels he can pick up a couple of books on the subject and teach it. But this isn't good enough; it isn't a field for dabbling."



On the Film Front

The Georgian Film Society, carrier of the day students' banner in the SGWU silver screen sweepstakes, is expanding and recycling profits.

"Kino Eye at Karma" is the new series starting November 21 at the student union. It will open with comedy shorts and generally feature classics to supplement film courses.

Profits from the regular commercial program are now to be applied to projects such as film workshops, stock for needy student filmmakers, and a film access catalogue. GFS head Jack Horwitz wouldn't specify the amount, but hopes to have "a bundle." He also has plans to introduce a Canadian filmmakers showcase next year, with directors on hand to talk about their work.

Money will come from \$1 admission to 7 and 9 p.m. Friday screenings of "Performance" (Nov. 17), "Satyricon" (Nov. 24), "Walkabout" and "Seven Samurai" (Dec. 1), "McCabe and Mrs. Miller" (Jan. 12), "Battle of Algiers" (Jan. 26) and "The Go-Between" (Feb. 9).

Free Tuesday 2 p.m. shows are scheduled for Marlon Brando and James Dean freaks: "On the Waterfront" (Jan. 23) and "East of Eden" (Feb. 6).

Artsy-Craftsy treats

The Office of the Dean of Students is again sponsoring an international bazaar - a display and sale of arts and crafts made by members of the University community - the week of November 26 through December 1 on the mezzanine of the Hall Building.

Forty arts and crafts types participated last year with paintings, batiks, enamel on copper, candles, silver jewellery, leatherwork, beadwork and knittings. Three-hundred fifty dollars were presented to the Henry F. Hall Scholarship fund from the 15% of sales charged the participants.

Dancing in the Clarke

The Toronto Dance Theatre is to appear for the first time on November 17 and 18 at the D.B. Clarke Theatre. Each evening features a completely different program - representing a total of nine works from the company's repertoire.

The Toronto Dance Theatre was created as an idea in the summer of 1968 by Peter Randazzo, formerly a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York, and David Earle, who had just returned from a season as dancer and choreographer for the London Contemporary Dance Group. They were joined by Patricia Beatty, founder of the New Dance Group of Canada.



The new company was formed with the three directors as resident choreographers and with four of the present company as dancers. Since 1968 the company has expanded to thirteen dancers with a repertoire of thirty-six original works, three of which are by company members.

The majority of the music composed for these works are by Canadian composers.

The Dance-Theatre has performed in Ontario and the north-eastern U.S. and Europe - London and Paris.

The November 17 program includes: Excerpts from Baroque Suite, Untitled Solo, Against Sleep, Three Sided Room, Visions for a Theatre of the Mind.

The November 18 program includes: Study for a Song in the Distance, The Last Act, The Amber Garden and Boat, River, Moon.

TV Guide, Nov. 24, 6 p.m. channel 6:

TWEEN SET A group of Scottish dancers perform under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis McCullough. Also featured: a demonstration of Swedish lashing.

Just in case the little darlings aren't on their toes.

Nixon's the One

The Selection Committee for the annual Royal Bank Award of \$50,000 invites nominations of "a Canadian citizen or person domiciled in Canada, whose outstanding achievement is of such importance that it is contributing to human welfare and the common good". Deadline is February 28. For details, contact the Secretary, Selection Committee, Royal Bank Award, P.O. Box 1102, Montreal 101. 861-6120.



Just friend

Paymaster Dorothea Vibrans has been selected as ombudsman replacing Rosemary Arthur of the Graduate Studies Office who resigned recently, it was learned today.

She joins Education's John Harrison and Mathematics instructor Mary Brian in the job that tries to solve all problems in the University community, that can't be dealt with through normal channels.

Job Openings

JUNIOR TYPIST - INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS:

General typing - general office work - reception work bilingual - willing to work overtime.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK - TRESURER'S OFFICE:

Processing - matching - checking invoices.

Qualifications: Attention to detail, neat writing, office experience preferably with accounts payable. Must be able to work with a team.

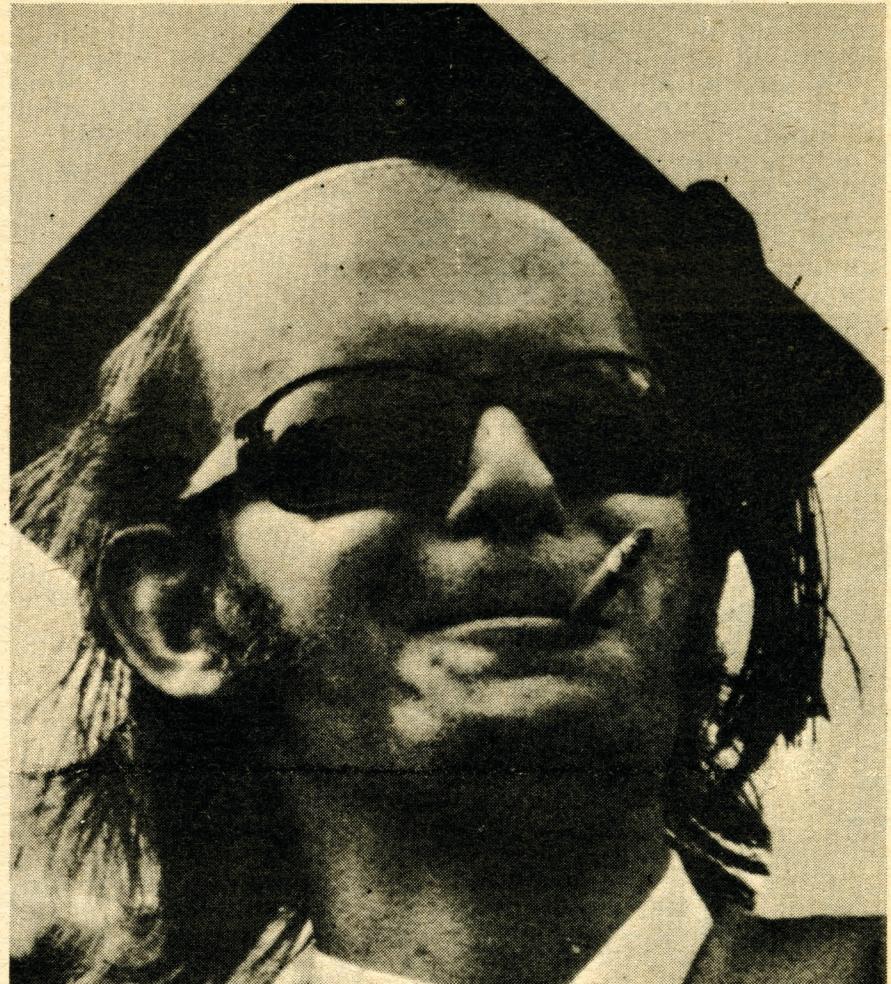
Apply to: Mr. N. Gibeau, Personnel Department, Room 403, 1420 Sherbrooke St. W., 879-4521.

Numbers racket

Sir George Williams University will grant degrees to 455 students and confer two honorary degrees at Fall Convocation on Tuesday, November 21.

Honorary degrees will go to Aylmer A. Ryan, student services specialist who is executive assistant to the president of the University of Alberta, and Carl Winkler, McGill University chemistry professor.

The ceremonies begin at 8:30 p.m. in Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts.



Does the state have any business in Ma Bell's boardroom?

Anyone who has experienced using telephones in Britain and Europe will no doubt remember the raunchy, grating sounds that are emitted like effluent from the lines. In France it's slightly worse of course, because on top of everything else the gents from the PTT (Postes, Telegraphes et Telephones) are beyond doubt the rudest sons of bitches to walk the face of a telephone cable.

So what are the pros and cons of nationalizing Canada's comparatively cheaper and more efficient, privately owned telephone utilities?

The NDP has been making noises about nationalizing Ma Bell. Quebec leader Raymond Laliberté put the idea forward late in the election campaign, and Premier Barrett has already drawn up legislation for the takeover of B.C.'s telephone company. This is not to say, however, that nationalization is the official dogma of the federal party.

"I wouldn't hesitate to nationalize Bell if I thought evidence showed that first, we wouldn't lose efficiency, and second, we could retain the same rate of cost," says Bob Keaton, an NDP candidate in the last election and lecturer in urban politics at Sir George. "I don't think anyone, especially a politician, is in a position to say right now whether Bell should be nationalized or their request for a rate increase should be met."

Bell Canada has applied to the Canadian Transport Commission (CTC) for the fourth time in four years, and for the second time this year for an increase in charges to the public for its various services.

Keaton doesn't think higher rates are reason enough by themselves to nationalize the telephone company, but he does want to see an active investigation rather than a passive review of their submissions to the CTC. "I think what is important is that there be a public investigation of the whole operation of Bell Canada - its internal operations, the services it renders and its subsidiaries (sometimes the profit picture given by Bell doesn't take into consideration the profit coming from its subsidiaries) - by the consumer affairs department, therefore making it more of an ombudsman for the consumer as indeed in principle it should be."

He suggests that a board be set up, consisting of representatives from industry, government, unions and consumers, and that the results of the investigation be presented to parliament and at the same time given full public debate through the media. "If it proves that the CTC is not doing its job properly then I think we should move towards nationalization."

But that is not his final answer. "Maybe Bell should be made a crown corporation (like the CNR), or a joint private and public operation, or completely nationalized," Keaton says; "but you have to analyse the industry to determine which of these is the best tool to use."

On economic policy in general Keaton claims that the NDP are more flexible than any of the other parties. "There is more than one instrument for achieving economic goals in the modern industrial state. Private enterprise is one of the major instruments, historically. And it will still have a major role in any future NDP government. But there are other means. The liberals have recognized this but they are not willing to go very far."

Keaton analyses three ways for a company to maintain or increase profits: raising prices, exploiting cheap labour and increasing internal efficiency. "The trouble with monopolies (companies which are alone in controlling a market for a particular good or service) is that they can get away with increasing prices. Inasmuch as there is no price competition, there is no compulsion to turn inside to increase efficiency. I think that's the case with Bell."

"One has to think of making profits not only by raising prices but by reducing the cost of operations. There has been very little incentive in Canadian industry to increase efficiency. And private industry can cover up its inefficiency by increasing prices to stay in operation. One thing about public organization, at least, is that inefficiency comes under public scrutiny".

To the classic argument that competition provides the motive for efficiency in the free enterprise system, Keaton responds by saying it's exaggerated. "I think there is an element of truth in that and to some extent there should be more competition. But it doesn't necessarily breed efficiency. If you have an abundance of resources then competition probably turns out to be the best thing. But if you are dealing with limited resources and you set up too much competition it may prove to be self-defeating."

Keaton points to the United States railway system as an example of competition going astray. "Look at the competition in the U.S. rail industry. What did that lead to? The most grossly inefficient rail operation the world has ever seen."

By contrast, Polymer Corporation (a Canadian crown corporation until it was recently sold to the Canadian Development Corporation) is profitable and efficient.

As further evidence of inefficiency in private that bureaucracy removes the profit motive and therefore the company executive doesn't have the same incentive to work hard, Economics professor Peter Miles thinks that it has been grossly overstated. Quebec Hydro, for example, would probably not be more efficient if it were privately owned. "You have to remember that crown corporations are not immune from empire-building, the desire to produce new things and fancier methods for producing existing things. Guys in the higher ranks don't act too much differently from those in comparable privately owned corporations."



Moreover, many large corporations today are run by salaried managers. The owners, those who reap the profits of a successful enterprise are usually stockholders. Socialists may ask what difference it makes if the corporation is managed by government technocrats and Canadian people are the "stockholders".

One objection is that private companies have more freedom to hire the efficient and fire the slack, whereas government employees fall under the Civil Service contract, so it is more difficult to remove bureaucrats who are not doing their job.

Keaton says a Bell worker told him that job security was one of the reasons for his favouring nationalization.

As further evidence of inefficiency in private enterprise, Keaton reminds us that the Peter Principle (that employees are promoted to their highest level of incompetence) was the result of studies in private companies.

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Lessons in capitalism

Bell Canada's profits have been climbing and yet they still want more money from the public. So it has applied to the Canadian Transport Commission (C.T.C.) for the second time this year for a rate increase.

Monopolistic pigs, you say? Perhaps, but it's not as simple as that. The telephone company claims "lack of investor confidence" as the reason for wanting 20¢ phone booth calls, increased service charges on operator-assisted calls and directory information, increased installation fees and more.

If Bell is going to expand its present services and explore new ones it will need money to invest in new construction and research. It gets those investment funds by selling stocks and bonds to the public. By claiming lack of investor confidence, Bell implies that they think the rate of return on investment is not high enough to attract capital funds.

Economics professor Peter Miles explains: "Essentially what they are saying is that if they are to induce people to hold their shares and buy their bonds, they must be able to pay those people enough to make Bell's obligations (stocks and bonds) compete successfully in financial markets with those of other firms." In other words Bell must pay a sufficient rate of return, in the form of interest on bonds and dividends on stock, to keep their capitalist creditors happy. If the capitalists become unhappy, they will take their investment money somewhere else.

The question becomes, is Bell's rate of return

high enough without the rate increase? They are asking for 7.8% for 1973. "That sort of rate of return on capital looks pretty low," says Miles, "but on the other hand you have to remember that when you buy Bell telephone shares, the risk of default is just about negligible - the return is pretty certain."

Bell issues what are sometimes quaintly referred to as "old ladies' stock", because they are safe. There is not much chance of old Ma Bell dying, and therefore being unable to pay investors. Risk of default is one of the factors investors consider before buying stocks and bonds. If the risk is high, they will expect a greater rate of return to compensate. Bell is not one of these stocks.

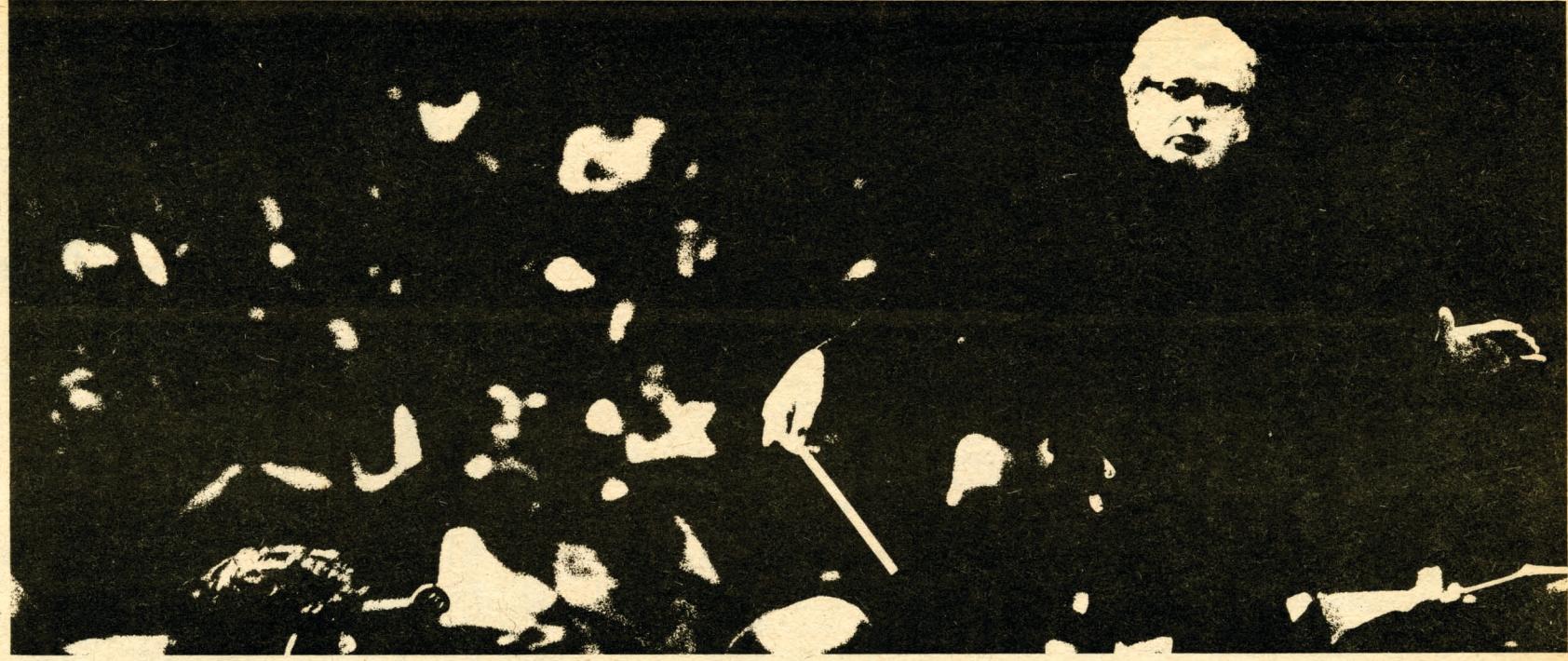
"The yield on Government of Canada long term bonds (considered the safest of all) is a little better than 7%," Miles points out, "and Bell isn't far away from the federal government in terms of risk of default on its obligations. The interest on bank deposits (another very safe asset) is less than that."

Bell claims that if they aren't given the increase, they will be forced to delay installation of new service and postpone modernization, because of lack of investment funds.

"If they are refused the increase, that will limit their ability to produce new kinds of fancier products (like contemporary phones)," Miles observes. "Whether or not it would limit the basic telephone service is another question. And I doubt very much that it would."

If Bell is refused the increase, that will limit its ability to produce fancier products. Whether it would limit the basic telephone service... "I doubt very much that it would."

Sir George's own version of the Morning Musical Club comes once again this Sunday when Maestro Franz-Paul Decker leads his MSO (in open rehearsal) through the meanderings of Mozart's Haffner's Serenade. For tickets, free of course, check the Hall Building information desk.



SGWU THIS WEEK

thursday 16

COMMERCE WEEK: Labatt tour with buses leaving Norris Building 1:30 returning 4:30 p.m.; 50¢
KARMA COFFEE HOUSE: Carson & Wheeler at 1476 Crescent St., 9 p.m.
CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "Deadline, U.S.A." (Richard Brooks, 1952) with Humphrey Bogart and Ethel Barrymore at 7 p.m.; "A High Wind in Jamaica" (Alexander Mackendrick, 1965) with Anthony Quinn and James Coburn at 9 p.m. in H-110; 50¢ students, 75¢ non-students.
CANADIAN STUDIES: NFB series "Struggle for a Border" with "Dangerous Decades (1818-1846)" at 5 p.m. in H-435.
DAY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION: "The Afro-American Musical Heritage" jazz performance and lecture with the Mitchell-Ruff duo in H-110 at 1 p.m.; free with I.D.
GALLERY I: Comic art traditions in Canada (from the National Gallery), through Nov. 28
WEISSMAN GALLERY: Charles Gagnon photo exhibit until Nov. 28.
ALUMNI ART GALLERY: Paintings by Marilyn Milburn, until Nov. 22.

friday 17

GEORGIAN FILM SOCIETY: "Performance" with Mick Jagger and James Fox at 7 and 9 p.m. in H-110; \$1.
KARMA COFFEE HOUSE: See Thursday.
ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL: Meeting at 2:30 p.m. in H-769.
COMMERCE WEEK: Eight hours of film for 99¢ in H-110 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; "Prologue," with Abbie Hoffman, "Buttercup Chain," with Leigh Taylor-Young and Jane Asher, "Pursuit of Happiness," with Michael Sarrazin and Barbara Hershey, "Loving," with George Segal and Eva Marie Saint, and "Bambole," with Virna Lisi and Gina Lollobrigida; ball with the Wackers at the Martinique, Guy and Dorchester, 8 p.m. - \$4 per couple.
HISTORY SOCIETY: General meeting 2 - 5 p.m. in H-427.
TORONTO DANCE THEATRE: Excerpts from "Baroque Suite," "Untitled Solo," "Against Sleep," "Three Sided Room," and "Visions for a Theatre of the Mind" at 8:30 p.m. in D.B. Clarke Theatre; students \$2. public \$3.
FACULTY CLUB: TGIF 5-6:30 p.m.; \$2.50 buffet supper 6:30 p.m. followed by debate on removing Scorpio from the zodiac (B. Queenan, M. Verthuy, J. Kelly, J. Whitelaw and T. Gray are concerned).

saturday 18

KARMA COFFEE HOUSE: See Thursday.
TORONTO DANCE THEATRE: "Study for a Song in the Distance," "The Last Act," "The Amber Garden," and "Boat, River, Moon" at 8:30 p.m. in D.B. Clarke Theatre; students \$2, public \$3.

sunday 19

MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Rehearsal of Mozart's "Haffner Serenade" 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in D.B. Clarke

Theatre; free tickets available at information desk, Hall Bldg.
CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "The Bride Wore Black" (Truffaut, 1968) with Jeanne Moreau, Jean-Claude Brialy and Claude Rich at 5 p.m.; "Mississippi Mermaid" (Truffaut, 1970) with Catherine Deneuve and Jean-Paul Belmondo at 7 p.m.; "Stolen Kisses" (Truffaut, 1969) with Jean-Pierre Léaud, Delphine Seyrig and Michael Lonsdale at 9 p.m. in H-110 (French with English subt.); 50¢ students, 75¢ non-students.

monday 20

STUDENT LIT: Henry Beissel reading from "Winter Crossing", a novel in progress, at 8:30 p.m. in the Karma Coffee House, 1476 Crescent St.

tuesday 21

FALL CONVOCATION: Ceremony at 8:30 p.m. in Theatre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts.
HISTORY SOCIETY: Prof. Richard Wilbur speaks on "George Parkin, R.B. Bennett, and Louis Robichaud: Three Examples of a New Brunswick Mentality" at 8:15 p.m. in H-435.
EDUCATION LECTURE: Harry Kay, head of psychology at Sheffield University, talks on "Recent Developments in Education Research: A Trans-Atlantic View" at 4 p.m. in H-520.
GEORGIAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Bible study at 4 p.m. in room 303, 2050 Mackay.
THE GEORGIAN PLAYERS: Jean Anouilh's "The Lark" at 8 p.m. in the D.B. Clarke Theatre, Hall Bldg; \$1.50.

wednesday 22

THE GEORGIAN PLAYERS: See Tuesday.
SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS' UNION: Open meeting at 5 p.m. in E-210, 2015 Drummond.

thursday 23

CANADIAN STUDIES: NFB series "Struggle for a Border" with "The New Equation: Annexation and Reciprocity (1840-1860)" at 5 p.m. in H-435.
KARMA COFFEE HOUSE: Chris Rawlings at 1476 Crescent St., 9 p.m.
THE GEORGIAN PLAYERS: See Tuesday.
CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "The Thirtynine Steps" (Hitchcock, 1935) with Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll at 7 p.m.; "The Exterminating Angel" (Buñuel, 1967) (Engl. subt.) with Silvia Pinal and Jacqueline Andere at 9 p.m. in H-110; 50¢ students, 75¢ non-students.

friday 24

PHILOSOPHY COUNCIL: Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in H-769.

Photos and notices of coming events should be in by Wednesday noon for Thursday publication (basement, 2145 Mackay) or call Maryse Perraud, 879-2823.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL: Meeting at 2 p.m. in H-769.

KARMA COFFEE HOUSE: See Thursday.

THE GEORGIAN PLAYERS: See Tuesday.

GEORGIAN FILM SOCIETY: "Satyricon" (Fellini) at 7 and 9 p.m. in H-110; \$1.

WORLD FEDERALISTS: Prof. E. McCullough, history dept., speaks on "World Government: Why and How" at 8 p.m. in H-820.

saturday 25

KARMA COFFEE HOUSE: See Thursday.

THE GEORGIAN PLAYERS: Jean Anouilh's "The Lark" at 2:30 and 8 p.m. in the D.B. Clarke Theatre, Hall Bldg; \$1.50.

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "The Firemen's Ball" (Milos Forman, 1968) (Engl. subt.) with Vaclav Stockel and Josef Svej at 7 p.m.; "Onibaba" (Kaneto Shindo, 1965) (Engl. subt.) with Nobuko Otawa and Jitsuko Yoshimura at 9 p.m. in H-110; 50¢ students, 75¢ non-students.

sunday 26

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "My Sister, My Love" (Vilgot Sjoman, 1967) (Engl. subt.) with Per Oscarsson, Bibi Andersson and Jarl Kulle at 7 p.m.; "I Am Curious (Yellow)" (Vilgot Sjoman, 1969) (Engl. Subt.) with Lena Lyman, Borje Anlsted and Peter Lindgren at 9 p.m. in H-110; 50¢ students, 75¢ non-students.

notices

GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION: By-elections to be held on November 28 in G.S.A. offices, 2145 Mackay, S-306, 1-9 p.m.

EVENING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION: By-elections November 20-24; polling booths on mezzanine, Hall Bldg and main floor, Norris Bldg.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS (ECONOMICS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION): A representative from the University of New Hampshire will interview interested students on Tuesday, November 21 in room Y-205 (3rd floor, Norris Bldg) 9 a.m. - noon. For information and appointment, call Katerina Rondos at 879-4249.

ISSUES & EVENTS

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